

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 L-03 SAB-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 LAB-04

SIL-01 EB-07 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 COME-00 MMO-01

/084 W

-----009623 111911Z /46

O R 111828Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2732

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE

SUMMARY: MEDIA COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS MODERATE, WITH RETURN OF PANAMANIAN TEAM TO WASHINGTON COVERED LIGHTLY ALONG WITH A FEW "WE STAND AT THE CROSSROADS" EDITORIALS. PRINCIPAL COLLATERAL TOPIC, ALSO COVERED LIGHTLY BUT WIDELY, WAS PLAN TO DISCUSS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN CANAL ZONE AT UN. END SUMMARY.

1. LEAD STORY IN "STAR AND HERALD" SATURDAY, JULY 9, WAS DENIAL BY PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF A JULY 8 AP STORY ON COMPENSATION ISSUE ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS (FBIS/PANAMA PA 091517Y). DENIAL WAS CARRIED LESS PROMINENTLY IN "ESTRALLA" AND ON BACK PAGE OF "CRITICA". "MATUTINO" EDITORIALIZED ON COMPENSATION, CALLING FOR "SPECIFIC ANSWERS" SHOWING SINCERE US DESIRE TO AGREE ON A MIDDLE GROUND (FBIS/PANAMA PA 091641Y).

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2. "DOMINICAL" FOR JULY 10 AND "CRITICA" JULY 11 REGALED READERS WITH EDITORIALS OF THE "WE STAND AT THE CROSSROADS" VARIETY, BUT BOTH NOTED ESCOBAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT OF JULY 7 THAT SIGNING OF A TREATY DEPENDED NOT ON A SPECIFIC DATE BUT ON THE TREATY'S CONTENT. "MATUTINO" WAS ONLY JULY 11 PAPER TO COVER DEPARTURE OF PANAMANIAN TEAM IN NEWS COLUMNS, WITH AN

EFE WIRE STORY.

3. IN LABOR-RELATED ASPECTS, "STAR AND HERALD" FOR JULY 10 PRINTED WILLIAM SINCLAIR'S WEEKLY COLUMN STRESSING EMPLOYEE DESIRE FOR OPTION TO RETAIN US CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT OR SWITCH TO PANAMANIAN SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE (COPY POUCHED ARA/PAN - CAMAUR). "ESTRELLA" REPRINTED LOCAL 900'S "10 COMMANDMENTS" ON LABOR ASPECTS OF TREATY (PANAMA 4869). "DOMINICAL" PRINTED A RATHER CONFUSED ARTICLE BASED ON REPORT SENT BY AL GRAHAM TO CANAL ZONE LABOR LEADERS LAST WEEK, REPORTING ALSO AFSCME REPUDIATION OF GRAHAM AS ITS SPOKESMAN. ARTICLE NOTES GRAHAM'S ESPOUSAL OF RIGHT OF "ZONIANS" TO BEAR ARMS UNDER PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION AND OF RETENTION OF CIVIL AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EXISTING SERVICE FACILITIES SUCH AS SNACK BARS AND GAS STATIONS. (COPY OR ARTICLE POUCHED ARA/PAN - CAMAUR).

4. INTERESTINGLY, LOCAL MEDIA HAVE MADE NO MENTION AS YET OF A JULY 8 EFE ARTICLE REPORTING ON A MEETING BETWEEN LOCAL DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION AND PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR CARLOS LOPEZ-GUEVAA (FBIS/PANAMA PA 082252Y, 090139Y). LOPEZ IS QUOTED THAT THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS, ONE TO RELATE TO CANAL NEUTRALITY, AND (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM A SPANISH EMBASSY OFFICER ON TOLLS) THAT DURING FIRST FEW YEARS, PANAMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"WOULD HAVE NO SAY IN THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF FIXING CANAL TOLLS...AS HAS BEEN THE CASE UNTIL NOW, CANAL TOLLS WILL BE FIXED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE UNITED STATES." HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "PANAMANIAN CITIZENS WILL OCCUPY ANY POSITION LEFT BY A US EMPLOYEE BECAUSE OF RESIGNATION, DISMISSAL, RETIREMENT OR DEATH."

5. MAIN COLLATERAL TOPIC, WHICH RECEIVED LOW-KEY BUT FAIRLY WIDESPREAD PLAY OVER WEEKEND, WAS FORTHCOMING DISCUSSION BY UN COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OF PANAMANIAN ALLEGATIONS OF RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN CANAL ZONE (FBIS/PANAMA PA 090429Y). GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1904381
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE SUMMARY: MEDIA COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS MODERATE, WITH RETURN OF PANAMANIAN TEAM TO WASHINGTON COVER
TAGS: PBOR, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2b24f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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